# The Washington Herald

Published Every Morning in the Year by
**The Washington Herald Company**
425-427-429 Eleventh St. Washington, D. C.
J. E. Rice, President and General Manager

Phone: Main 3300—All Departments
SUBSCRIPTION RATES—BY CARRIER
*In the District of Columbia:*
Daily and Sunday, 1 Month, 40c; 1 Year, $4.80
*Outside the District of Columbia:*
Daily and Sunday, 1 Month, 50c; 1 Year, $6.00
SUBSCRIPTION BY MAIL IN ADVANCE
Daily and Sunday, 1 Month, 50c; 1 Year, $5.00
Daily Only, 1 Month, 40c; 1 Year, $3.50

*Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations*

BRANCH OFFICES:
*London, Eng.: 124 Pall Mall, S. W. 1.*
*Paris: 420 Rue St. Honore.*
*Berlin: Under den Linden, 1.*
*New York: 225 Fifth Ave.; Chicago: 900 Mailers Bldg.; Los Angeles: 401 Van Nuys Bldg.*
BENJAMIN & KENTNOR COMPANY
*National Advertising Representatives*

*Entered as Second-Class Matter, Postoffice Washington, D. C.*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 1922.


## The Time Is Ripe.

THERE is a sentiment abroad, a determination, which cannot fail to secure for the District that of which it has for years stood pressingly in need—a real public school system.

The sentiment and determination exist in and out of Congress. The mothers and fathers of 65,000 children have made their representations to the legislators; the legislators have been impressed with the immediacy of the thing as they would have been long ago had it been brought so forcefully and concertedly to their attention as in the past few months. They have made heir own investigations, and their mental attitude may be summed up in the declaration of one of their number:

"The public schools of the District of Columbia are a disgrace to the entire nation."

A few years hence that will be nothing but the echo from a disreputable past. The wheels of reorganization are in motion, and now is the accepted time.

The Herald is glad it was enabled to throw light upon the school situation in a series of editorials during December, 1921. At the moment when bills are pending in the halls of Congress for increases in salaries for teachers, when a joint committee is making ready to report a carefully drawn measure for the permanent development of a real school system, when the fruits of the present order are most apparent to those who look for them, we take occasion to reiterate three main points in the program which would change a national disgrace to a national pride.

They are:

First—Appointment of the members of the Board of Education by the President, with confirmation by the Senate.

Second—A complete divorce of the schools from the District government by placing in control of the board, so named, all the fiscal affairs of the schools; the levying of the taxes for school purposes, within a limited tax rate of not to exceed a certain number of mills; the entire control of the school budget and all school expenditures; the fixing of teachers' salaries, and all building construction.

Third—The entire control of the educational functions of the schools, without interference from Congress, to rest in the board.

These principles are embodied in a petition from parents of District public school pupils to Senator Capper, chairman of the Joint Committee on Schools, the body which is formulating an inclusive series of recommendations looking into the future, not merely patching up some of the errors of the past. There should not be any dangerous opposition to such bills as will issue from the report, recent developments indicate.

For, after all, Congress is more concerned, especially at this time, with expenditures than with systems of control, and school appropriations for the coming fiscal year promise to show a higher ratio between estimates and sums granted than for a long time. Congress also has shown itself ready to increase the pay scales of the teaching force, from kindergarten to superintendent's office. Therefore, the outlook for an immediate revolution in school government is most rosy.

To this change in administration The Herald once more earnestly subscribes. So long as the Board of Education is a body emasculate, given over to petty disputes and uninfluential recommendations; so long as it is without a business head or manager; so long as its members are appointive by the justices of the District Supreme Court instead of the President of the United States; so long as the whim of a Congress to come may slash estimates or nullify carefully-wrought programs of education—just so long the schools will suffer their present decrepitude.

With Congress rests the authority to bring the program for reorganization off of paper and into practice, and Congress, if the signs are not entirely misread, will so authorize. And thus will be established a safe and sane foundation upon which to rear a model edifice of public education in the Capital.

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A bill has been introduced in Congress making the President's term of office six years. A noted golf expert recently stated that it takes that number of years to learn the game.

## The Police Problem.

WHILE other cities in the United States are wrestling with so-called "crime waves," and robberies, murders and deeds of violence are matters of every-day record, Washington is noticeably free from crimes of the more serious and spectacular kind. Every now and then a bold hold-up is attempted but almost invariably the newspapers of the following day record the arrest of the culprits involved.

How this particularly excellent record is maintained seldom occurs to the average citizen or to the statesmen who make the District their home for a large portion of each year. The results are sufficient; there is no inquiry as to how it is done. Congress apparently believes there are no criminals in Washington, that none ever visit the city and that the members of the Metropolitan police force are used chiefly to keep the crowds back at fires and parades and furnish information to strangers within our gates. Nothing could be wider of the mark.

Washington is comparatively free from crime because its very limited police force is doing the duty of an organization twice its size; because every man in the department from Chief Sullivan to the newest "cub" patrolman is working more and harder hours than would be expected of any worker in private industry. Because the personnel is limited in number, great care is exercised in picking the best material, with the result that Washington's police force as a whole probably is the most intelligent in the country.

It is this intelligence and a devotion to duty inspired by a capable chief with whom they are in thorough sympathy and accord that has enabled the District thus far to keep the much heralded "crime-waves" away from its doors. But how much longer will the overworked force stand the strain? Statistics in industry tell us that a capable body of men, keyed up to the highest pitch will rate 100 per cent efficient for a given length of time and then will begin to go "stale" or become "ragged" from overwork. When this time arrives the efficiency percentage begins to drop off, gradually at first but by ever increasing spans, until there is a complete smash or general reorganization. Washington's police department is little different from any other body performing a given set of duties and while Chief Sullivan's men are giving 100 per cent protection now there will come a time when they must have relief from the tension or break under the strain.

The District heads are cognizant of these facts and asked Congress for 125 more men. In hearings before the Congressional committees the vital need for more men was stressed. Yet the House refused to add to the personnel. The Senate District Committee was more kindly and made provision for seventy-five additional men. This number is better than none but falls far short of what is necessary. Keeping in mind that strict economy was the watchword, Chief Sullivan presented the lowest figure compatible with efficiency and a reduction below that figure reduces just that much the "margin of safety." When it is considered that forty-eight men are needed at once to put into effect Chief Sullivan's plan for giving the suburbs adequate protection through the establishment of call boxes it will be readily seen that out of the Senate's provision for seventy-five there will be left the overwhelming number of twenty-seven men for distribution through eleven precincts, the central office and substations. And this makes no provision whatsoever for additional traffic men, a vital necessity if Washington's toll of life, limb and property damage is to be kept to a minimum.

It would be well if the Senate and House conferees who now have the police bill before them would think well on these figures before applying the paring knife. False economy in other branches of District government taught its lesson recently in heavy loss of life and vast property damage. There is a chance now to lock the stable door before the horse is stolen—literally.

Otherwise there will be in order a short-sighted policy which cannot but react to the ambarrassment and discredit of the Congress if the warning is not heeded.

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The dead scientist who will attend his birthday anniversary is expected to make a spirited address.

## Flanking the Column.

WE ALWAYS had thought F. P. A. and Heywood Broun and Don Marquis and other eminent columnists to be rather a talented lot of young men, with occasional flashes of genius. But then perhaps our brain has become deadleveled by the journalistic grind until we are incapable of demonstrating the possession of a critical faculty. Certain it is that our present collegiates, a moiety of them at least, do not share our admiration for the above-mentioned gentlemen. They demonstrated that in a recent poll, the results of which are noted by the Fourth Estate, recorder of changes and innovations in the newspaper world.

One of the horrors of the deluge of questionnaires which has descended upon college life, says the Fourth Estate, "is the disrespect some of our immature young people have shown for the columnist. To some the eminence of those who balance a column and a fat livelihood upon their initials at the bottom of their faithfully emphasized daily stint is unassailable. To the college iconoclasts, however, these idols seem to have clay feet, and there are unmistakable signs of uncouth and raucous derision in adolescent summaries of their importance."

Worse than this, the New York Times, which possesses no columnist, turned on the general cause of journalism and with a faithless laugh precipitated an editorial entitled "The Icolumnclasts," to wit:

"A distressing report comes from those inner circles of infallible youth where the great literary movements of the day get their ticketed judgments. The verdict is said to have run against 'the column.' The gifted and revered writers who conduct it in various newspapers are charged with having gone stale. Their sprightliness has become frozen. Their laughter is like the crackling of thorns under a pot. Their originality has lapsed into wearisome conventionality. The assertion is that their puffery of their friends, their forced grimaces, their attempts to galvanize dead witticisms into life, their tedious descriptions of what they eat and drink and read and wherewithal they are clothed, their babbling and their bragging—that all this has at last worn out the patience of their young admirers and imitators. There are demands for radical reforms. There are mutterings of revolt.

"This is painful evidence that no might or greatness in mortality can censure 'scape. So many had fondly hoped that in 'the column' we had a new and permanent 'literary form.' It was not really new, and, if it has now come to be railed at as only one more style of routine and stodgy newspaper writing, it may not live forever. We can but sorrowfully record the fact that sacrilegious hands are being raised against the columnist, and that bold and irreverent spirits are discoursing upon the way in which the life has gone out of them as completely as out of poor Yorick's skull—that other fellow of infinite jest."

The matter is far from settled, however. The column idea isn't new and often not good in its working out, but it has had an astonishing development in the American press and has attracted numberless literary dilettanti and many connoisseurs to its support.

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President Harding may not enjoy his change from the house boat to the House vote.

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The "Fill a Bowl" movement would be rapid if it represented a male football game.

# New York City Day by Day Impressions: by O. O. McIntyre

NEW YORK, March 21.—The tea room in other days as a place of amusement was the object of polite tittering. Now gay life in its supremest tempo is cached in these thousand or so oolong parlors in the Forties. A piece of chintz, a couple of lanterns, a Jap servant and lo! a rendezvous for flappers and cake eaters.

A few months back the tea pots began to boil at 5 o'clock. Now they snap into full speed at 2. Even the theaters are complaining that much patronage is lost at matinees because Polly has selected an earlier hour. Gentlemen unaccompanied by ladies are not permitted in the exclusive places. En passent, a new place of feminism.

The crowds are strictly New Yorkish—boys with shellacked hair and girls with patent leather knee boots and the sprinkling of darbs and cellar smellers. A few permit dancing but mostly the gaiety is confined to flapper talk and flask passing.

The chatter is sketchy, superficial and typical of what New York calls the Mad Youngsters. Their patois is punctuated with such words as "gerry-flapper," "boffos," "clucks," "sub-chasers," "gofies," "kibisters" and all the strange jargon that seems to go with pommade and galoshes.

In this era of unrestraint among those of the spanking age good manners are forgot—a detriment. The young bloods essay the roles of cynics and the girls are surfeited with a world weariness the sight of which provokes a yawn. The whole cosmic scheme, in their own language, is "blaah." So they pan the universe unmercifully.

A girl who doesn't smoke gets the derisive hoot and those who are unacquainted with the muscular convolutions of the shimmy are called "ironsides," meaning that they are so archaic as to wear corsets when they go out to dance.

A chaperon is as mid-Victorian as the hoop-skirt. The tea room crowds have one big idea—that is to show off. And they do it most successfully.

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Introducing New York's quickest thinker. He went into the washroom of one of the railroad terminals, took a small bottle from his hip. He had the bottle to his lips when a policeman looked in. So he tossed back his head and gargled loudly.

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This is the sort of life in New York which one rarely sees or hears about. It concerns the simple diversions of the poor in their tenements. The Saturday night dance to the tune of a mouth-organ, the horse-shoe pitching contests in tenement backyards and the so-called "rackets"—at which only soup and crackers are served to guests. It represents the cheerful spirit and the companionship among the submerged tenth. James L. Ford tells of a working girl who said with a radiant smile illuminating her face: "We have lots of fun down at our house pretty near every night; papa isn't working this winter, but he's fearful funny."

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A new fad is evidently taking hold of the feminine portion of Riverside Drive. Evry morning at 6 o'clock a group of knickerbocker women carrying short sticks jog along the bridle path. As the most of them are rather stout it is presumed that they are taking this means of reducing.

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New York's ramshackle taxis have long disgraced an otherwise fair city. The drivers are of the bettle-browed type who talk out of the sides of their mouth—and take no back talk. A fare hailed one on Forty-second street the other afternoon and it lumbered up to the curb, coughed a couple of times and expired. The fare waited ten minutes and then said he would have to get another cab.

"Youse'll take dis one or I'll slug you in de map," said the driver. Then he looked the fare over and somehow changed his mind. He was gazing into the placid countenance of Jack Dempsey.

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Blind George, who now has his newspaper hutch at Bryant Park after being at Herald Square for twenty years, is lonesome. "I miss the familiar voices of my old friends," he told me.

## WHO'S WHO IN THE DAY'S NEWS

**SIR LAMING WORTHINGTON-EVANS.**

From a political enemy and critic of David Lloyd George, British premier, to his most trusted lieutenant is the tale of the public life of Sir Laming Worthington Evans, slated to direct Indian affairs as secretary of state for India.

The portfolio was made vacant by the enforced resignation of Edwin S. Montagu.

Worthington-Evans is a lawyer who has amassed a fortune through the practice of his profession. He jumped into prominence first by his constant and skillful criticism of the national insurance scheme devised by Lloyd George while he was chancellor of the exchequer.

SIR WORTHINGTON EVANS

The Welsh wizard soon decided that it would be better to have Worthington-Evans as a friend than as a critic and foe.

An alliance was formed and today Worthington-Evans is regarded in every sense of the word as a Lloyd George man.

With the outbreak of the war he became controller of the foreign trade department of the foreign office. Later he followed Lloyd George into the department of munitions.

When Lloyd George became premier Worthington-Evans successfully became financial secretary of the war office and cabinet minister of blockade, and secretary of war.

Worthington-Evans has solved many trying problems during the war, but it is doubtful if any were more difficult than the one he now faces—pacifying the rebellious Indians.

# The Friend of the People

## Answers to Your Questions

*This department is conducted by The Herald to answer questions of its readers. All questions will be answered in these columns. Address letters to the Friend of the People.*

**WRITTEN BY STERNE**

To the Friend of the People:

Please state if Laurence Sterne is the author of "God tempereth the wind to the shorn lamb." In which of his works can it be found? Also state who is Samuel Pepys, often quoted by O. O. McIntyre in your paper. OLD SUBSCRIBER.

Laurence Sterne is the author of the quotation. It appears in his book "Maria," which can be found in the Congressional Library. Samuel Pepys was an Englishman who kept a diary of events during the reign of Charles the Second. It is said that without the diary the history of the court of the king could never have been written.

**NAME FROM INDIANS.**

To the Friend of the People:

Do you know what the proper name Quindaro is derived from, and if so, what is its meaning. M. R. T.

Quindaro is an Indian name meaning "bundle of sticks." The town, Quindaro, in Wyandotte County, Kansas, was named for an Indian woman, Quindaro, who formerly owned the land.

**FROSTED GLASS.**

To the Friend of the People:

I have a very fine glass in my front door. The only objection to it is that it is frosted. Can you tell me some way of removing frosting from glass? MRS. O. T. K.

There is no chemical method of taking frosting off glass that is practical. The frosting ordinarily is done by sand blasting or by etching with hydrofluoric acid. The cheapest method would be to substitute clear glass for the frosted glass.

**QUOTING PATRICK HENRY.**

To the Friend of the People:

Can you tell me where the following quotation comes from: "If this be treason, make the most of it." S. M. R., Millsboro, Ky.

The quotation you refer to was made by Patrick Henry in the Virginia Legislature while urging adoption of the "Virginia Resolutions," which were a declaration of resistance to the stamp act and the control of the British Parliament. The oft quoted words follow:

"Tarquin and Caesar had each his Brutus, Charles the First his Cromwell, and George the Third—(here he was interrupted by cries of "treason") and George the Third may profit by their example. If this be treason make the most of it."

**WHERE TO FIND QUOTATION.**

To the Friend of the People:

Where can I find the name of the poem that has this quotation:

"But I behold a fearful sign,
To which the white men's eyes are blind;
Their race may vanish hence like mine,
And leave no trace behind,
Save ruins o'er the region spread,
And the white stones above the dead."
I. L.

The above prophecy is contained in the poem, "An Indian at the Burial Place of His Fathers," and may be found in the Library of Congress.

**BOOKS BY DIXON.**

To the Friend of the People:

Will you be kind enough to give me a list of the books written by Thomas Dixon? MRS. I. W. O.

Dixon is the author of the following: "The Clansman," "Leopard Spots," "The One Woman," "The Life Worth Living," "The Traitor," "Comrades," "The Root of Evil," "The Sins of the Father," "The Southerner," "The Victim," "Foolish Virgin," "The Fall of a Nation" and "The Way of Man."

**CHANGE OF VENUE.**

To the Friend of the People:

Will you please explain what "change of venue" means, and oblige? J. S.

Change of venue is a law term meaning change that is made in the place of a trial—from one court of another.

**ABOUT AUTHORS.**

To the Friend of the People:

I would like to know whether the following authors are living and if so, their present addresses: Gene Stratton Porter and Amelia Edith Barr. G. W. H.

Address Mrs. Gene Stratton Porter at Limberlost Cabin, Rome City, Ind., (b) Amelia Edith Barr died March 10, 1918.

**DAY FELL ON FRIDAY.**

To the Friend of the People:

Do you know what day of the week came on May 20, 1898? Mrs. E. E. O.

May 20, 1898 fell on Friday.

# Open Court Letters to The Herald

## Other People's Views on Current Events

**Communications will not be returned unless specific request for such return is made and stamps inclosed.**
**Letters should be typewritten whenever possible. Communications extremely difficult to read will not be considered. No communications signed with fictitious names will be used.**

### Wants Reserve Bill Passed.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:

May I voice my views on the bonus?

Some time ago the Senate passed a bill to give U. S. reserve officers the same retirement privileges as the Regular Army officers, i. e., those officers who had been disabled in service to the extent of 30 per cent or more. Now the bill is being held up by the House and the members of the Hosue are wasting their time on the bonus bill—which we all knew never had a chance to pass. I, of course, am opposed to the bonus bill—for several reasons—mainly because it would tax the people for years to come and only the dishing out a large sum of money to a bunch of fellows who would waste 90 per cent of it. A vast majority of the ones who are holding for a bonus are too lazy to go to work.

If Representatives are in earnest they will take care of the disabled first and under that heading the reserve officer's bill should receive first consideration, for its a recognized fact we reserve officers suffered far more financially than the enlisted men did.

There are today many former officers who are not able to earn over $1,800 a year on acconut of disability and general conditions, whereas if the retirement act was passed we would be in a beter position to regain part of our war losses. I sincerely hope our Representatives will kill the bonus bill and appropriate the money for us who are disabled. CHARLES E. HOWARD.

### Likes Financial Pages.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:

We are to be congratulated and The Herald thanked for the splendid financial page which you bring out every day. It is of great value and assistance to your numerous readers, and it has brought you in many more. It is something Washington has long needed.

Yours truly, READER.

### Indian Fighter Condemns Bonus.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:

As to the merits of the bonus, I will say in the first place, the giving of a cash sum is not just, as the men who fought in the recent war did not do so for a king or any foreign ideal, not even for America, but for "Americanism," which being translated means equal opportunity of advancement for all men regardless of birth, race or creed. The saving of this principle on the fields of Europe should be sufficient reward and glory for thoge taking part. In the second place, the giving of a bonus at this period of reconstruction would be the height of folly, since what is needed is not an increase but a decrease in taxation, in order to stimulate business.

Now I will say a few words in regard to the personal feeling of myself and friends in regard to this matter. It certainly makes the blood of us old Indian veterans boil in our veins when we—all of us volunteers—who served five, ten and often twenty years under the hardest conditions to save the West for modern civilization (I myself was wounded twice at the battle of Wounded Knee) hear young draftees, with only a few months service, without any wounds, demanding a sum never even contemplated before. The sum offered me, a wounded man, was so paltry I said "Nay, nay, Pauline."

J. C. SCOTT.
Ex-Sergeant, Sixth Infantry.

### Says Specialists Err.

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:

Your editorial, "Luring Doctors Back to the Land." I read with interest, also Mr. Briggs' letter suggesting tests for different medical treatments.

If more doctors could be "lured back to the land," it might aid in having less of their patients lured under the land! Your editorial mentions the test tube, microscope, the X-ray, with other highly developed methods of diagnosis used by our very scientific medical men of today.

Dr. Cabot, of the Massachusetts General Hospital, with every scientific instrument of precision at hand, states that the autopsies have shown that they have been wrong in their diagnosis 50 per cent of the time! Prof. David Drummond in his address before the British Medical Association on "Accuracy in Diagnosis," suggests a far greater percentage of error, and says: "The tendency of the present day is to ignore physical signs and to rely altogether upon laboratory methods."

Sir James Mackenzie, consulting physician to the king in Scotland, director of St. Andrew's Institute of Clinical Research, etc., called the basteriologists down in a lengthy address at St. Mary's Hospital (London) recently. He said: "Up to fifty years ago the trained observer was slowly unraveling the early symptoms of disease, discovering the beginnings of disease and their cause. Now, attention is concentrated on developed disease, where the tissues are already damaged and gross physical symptoms apparent. It seems not to have been grasped that the specialist can only recognize disease after it has gone so far as to damage the organs."

Judging from the reports showing increasing disease in our country, it would seem that Dr. Work's statement that "quacks" who "invent and not prevent" disease are rather rampant round about! And those very "quacks" are the ones who are striving to get a more powerful hold upon the "health" business in the country. If 50 per cent of diagnoses in the best hospitals in the country are wrong, what can we say of the guesses of the average doctor with no scientific instruments at hand? And what of his treatments in the 50 per cent of wrong guesses? Does not this look like a lovely set to examine our children in the public schools—give them the "Shick test"—plant diphtheria poison in all to find if they are "immune;" and if they are not, inoculate them with some of the toxin-anti-toxin which recently killed ten children in Dallas, Tex.? It was only in March, 1911, that the great Flexner went to New York to treat two doctors (Brown and E. F. Ashley) with his wonderful anti-spinal-meningitis serum, which was claimed to do such wonders. What was the result? Dr. Brown made a record of dying sooner than anybody else of the disease, and Dr. Ashley's death was called "martyrdom to science." The papers said: "Meningitis serum fails." How sure this serum is may be known from the Public Health Report of August 14, 1917, which states that in eighty-four principal cities in the United States the death rate for cerebro-spinal-meningitis was 100 per cent!

Only yesterday, a local paper published an increase of 50 to 100 per cent in diphtheria over the country. Cancer claimed 180,000 in 1920, so Dr. W. W. Keene says! The deaths of three soldiers, one a captain, from the injection of a "well-known serum," for a blood disease, was reported from Waukesha, Wis. The "cure" more deadly than the disease!

In regard to vaccination, Dr. Millard, of England, points out that—"It frequently happens that the epidemic of vaccinia, thus artificially produced, is really much more serious, so far as actual effects go, than the outbreak of smallpox, for example, there may be a few dozen cases of mild smallpox, with three or four deaths, while the epidemic of vaccinia may run into tens of thousands."

If people would think, and read the papers, they would get a very clear picture of the "quacks" who are "inventing" and not "preventing" disease.

H. BONNELL.

### Merits of Psychological Tests in Public Schools

To the Editor, The Washington Herald:

The two extremes, the retarded pupil and the very bright pupil, have received a major share of consideration during the last few years from educators who are working on problems in primary education in psychological clinics and departments of research in city school systems.

Attempts have been made to measure these children by a new standard. Heretofore the child's accomplishment in reading for the first year of his school life has been the unit of measurement in most schools in the United States. If he could not read a page in a first reader without stumbling he was accounted a failure and was required to take the work over. He reentered school where he began the year before and dragged his weary spirit through a repetition of the successes and failures of his first year's experience.

The appalling percentage of retardation in the first grade, about one pupil in four being counted out at the end of the year as a failure, has aroused the thinking educator to the lack of efficiency in this method of early education.

Attention has at last been turned from methods of teaching to the child himself, to ascertain why he fails and in what way he differs from his class mates who have passed on to a higher grade and have left him stranded. It is proposed to take a simple measurement of his mental ability, usually by some modification of the Binet scale, and then to adapt the course of study and the methods of teaching to his particular type of competency.

A similiar plan is tried in most cities. The children in the first grade by means of a group test are classified tentatively into three divisions, X, Y, and Z. The X group is made up of the brightest children and the Z the dullest. The present course of study is well adapted to the middle, the Y group. A richer course is developed for the X group, and minimum essentials only required of the Z group with more time for the concrete presentation of subject matter.

The child with the unusually good endowment has suffered quite as much in our public school system as the child who is retarded. The very bright child will learn to read and write, willy-nilly, given the least opportunity and there is no power that can stop him. His measure of competency should be ascertained and he should be given stimuli in his public school course which shall train his superior ability.

As the mental test becomes more and more accepted as a basis for grading a child in primary classes the question arises, what can be done in the way of instruction to meet the varying needs of these pupils? Here is a most interesting opportunity for investigation and experiment for those who are attempting to fit the school to the child. It calls for a co-operative program for the teacher and the psychologist to work out together. The child has been placed tentatively at least in a general type group, bright, or medium, or dull, as the case may be. He has certain liabilities and certain assets. The teacher has a record of his failures and his attainments in certain psychological processes and can inform herself as to his mental equipment. Shall she continue to use the same methods for all her children regardless of their individual competency, or shall she adapt certain specific methods to specific abilities so that a child's power in one direction may reinforce and overcome his weakness in another? This is an almost unexplored field in elementary education and bids fair to become one of the greatest movements in its history.

Dr. Witmer discovered in his attempts to teach backward children to read that the child with the short memory span does not learn to read by the word method. Lists of words to be learned from day to day by a pure act of memory prove too great a tax for these children and only when they have gained the power to analyze a word, phonetically, do they begin to acquire a reading vocabulary.

In the case of the Kinaesthetic method of teaching reading lately reported from the University of California, the act of writing the word seemed to clear away the difficulty for the non-reading pupils. The ability to use phonetic analysis was wholly lacking, we are told in the case of these children, and they were able to function a word only after they had written it. Here it would seem is a case where the inability to use the ear was overcome by a special emphasis on the use of the eye and hand.

Cannot primary teachers where the intelligence tests are used as a basis for placement in the grades begin to study this question from the scientific standpoint and to help the psychologist to formulate specific methods for specific abilities?

FLORENCE C. FOX,
Bureau of Education, Interior Dept.

# The Herald's Scientific Notes and Comment

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 1922.

**Geological Society of Washington.** Cosmos Club, tonight, 8 o'clock. "The Surface Fusion of Recent Lavas," by J. S. Diller. "Deep Earth Temperature," by C. E. Van Orstrand. "The Hot Springs of the Lassen National Park," by Arthur L. Day and E. T. Allen.

**"The Selection and Heat Treatment** of Automatic Steels," will be the subject of an open discussion at the meeting of the Washington Chapter of the American Society for Steel Treating, Interior Department Auditorium, tonight, 8 o'clock.

### BRILLIANT PLANETS SHINE IN EVENING SKY.

After an absence of many months Venus has once more returned to the western evening sky and will be visible as an evening star throughout the spring and summer months and far into the fall. Though still close to the horizon at sunset and therefore not seen to advantage in March, this magnificent planet will rapidly improve its position for observation on each successive evening as it draws farther eastward and appears higher in the western sky at sunset. Its greatest distance east of the sun, called its greatest Eastern elogantion, will not be reached until September and it will not obtain its great brilliancy until late in October. Even under the most unfavorable circumstances for observation Venus far surpasses all other stars and planets in brightness and when viewed under favorable conditions, as it will be for some months to come, it commands the admiration of even the most indifferent of star-gazers.

Saturn and Jupiter may now be seen rising in the eastern sky late in the evening. Both of these planets lie in the constellation of Virgo just east of Leo, which is identified by its sickle-shaped group of stars. There is no difficulty about identifying Jupiter as it far outshines all other stelar objects in view at this time. Venus disappears below the western horizon before Jupiter comes into view. In a few nights Jupiter will be rivaled and finally surpassed in brilliancy by Mars, a circumstance which only happens when Mars is in an unusually favorable position with respect to the earth, as it will be in June. At present Mars is at present in the constellation of Scorpio, we must be up after midnight to see the ruddy planet. Mars will not be seen in the evening sky until May.

Jupiter and Saturn will be seen to the best advantage during March and April, as Saturn comes into opposition to the sun on March 23 and Jupiter on April 4. On the date of their opposition they will be visible throughout the night, rising at sunset and setting at sunrise.

Saturn now lies a few degrees to the northwest of Jupiter and is far inferior to it in brightness. In fact Saturn is surpassed in brightness by a number of the first-magnitude stars. Ruddy Arcturus appearing in the northeast is brighter than Saturn, while Sirius and Procyon, Rigel and Capella in the western sky, other stars, including Castor and Pollux in Gemini, now near the meridian, and Regulus at the end of the handle of the Sickle in Leo are not greatly inferior to Saturn in brightness.

The brilliancy of Saturn is also dimmed by comparison with the grandeur of nearby Jupiter. The steadily glowing radiance of Jupiter's golden rays can never be mistaken for the light of any other stellar object and is in strong contrast to the twinkling lights of the many bright stars that are visible at this time. With the aid of a good field class one should also be able to glimpse at this time some or all of the four historic moons of Jupiter that were the first objects to be discovered by Galileo with his "optik tube" or first crude telescope.—By Isabel M. Lewis, of United States Naval Observatory.

W. D.

## TIMELY VIEWS ON WORLD TOPICS

"There is no use trying to heal the cancer of sin with soothing syrup," declares the Rev. Dr. John Roach Straton, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, New York, from whose pulpit William A. Brady, theatrical producer, recently defended the morals of the stage.

"It is idle to sprinkle cologne water upon the putrid iniquities of a rebellious race. To counteract the appalling looseness and rottenness of the times every real preacher must be a sensationalist because religion is the most revolutionary measure ever given to earth.

DR. STRATON

"With 10,000,000 of the human race rotting in untimely of humanity's sins and war lust, and with such a saturnalia of crime and vice and shamelessness as society has never known before, surely some preachers are needed who will dare to speak the truth at any hazard—yes, some who will cry aloud and spare not, even though they are quartered in the streets and nailed to a cross.

"We have reached a pass where messengers cannot step from a newspaper office into an automobile waiting directly in front of the door without being robbed of thousands of dollars.

"Peaceful merchants are murdered in their open shops. Many of the playhouses are so foul that our children cannot walk the streets without confronting veritable traps of hell, the vileness of which is reflected even upon the billboards.

"Our young men and women are jazz wild and dance crazy. Our schoolgirls are poisoning themselves by smoking cigarets. They have forgotten to blush and are being taught that the smart thing is to use the lipstick and paint pot and to swagger at least a little bit.

"A condition of undress that formerly would have caused a raid by the police even in the tenderloin now is the accepted style in the hotel lobby, theater, ballroom and even in the streets. The flapper has taken the place of true femininity. Contemptible little dogs are in the arms of wives instead of babies.

"The marriage vow is being thrown aside like a scrap of paper.

"Our American home life is being broken up by a thousand outside attractions. The Sabbath day is being desecrated.

"The very foundations of our modern life seem at times to be trembling."